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to reinstate the accountability requirement for the members of a school board, no matter who they are employed by, and they will be filing a statement of interest similar to the one that we've had to file here recently. And essentially what we will be doing is making a decision on if we believe that all employees should be treated the same underneath this legislation as teachers are, or if we should just allow this to be as is drafted. And that...that's essentially what it will do. So on page 3, it just strikes the words "as a teacher". The bill will say, "No member of a school board shall be employed by the school district which he or she serves as a school board member". And that's essentially what the amendment does. Now, my apologies once again for the confusion with Senator Wickersham's concerns as far as the filing of a school board member. This is smaller in scope and only affects the eligibility of those who would be eligible to serve on the school board. I understand that when we do things like that, people have concerns about people willing to run or having the number of available candidates to run for school board. And being from a rural district, generally it's not those...the problem is not in those who are willing to run, it's that they don't want to run against somebody, and there's a number of individuals who would be willing to run, so we're not necessarily creating another problem with this amendment. And if the body sees fit to vote no, that's fine, but I would encourage the adoption of it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Wickersham, on the Erdman amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I rise in opposition to Senator Erdman's amendment, and I will reiterate the comments that I made earlier. I see no reason to distinguish between teachers and other employees of any other political subdivision who might also be serving on the board. I was visiting with another member. They said, well, how is this different than a county board member who is also a county employee? I agree. Current law allows a county employee to serve as a member of a county board. What's the difference? We have never been able to bring ourselves to say, nor do I think it's appropriate for us to say, as a hard and fast principle that because someone is